Vigil in villages along the Bengal borders

4423. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the police and intelligence agencies have stepped up vigil in villages along the border with Bangladesh and Nepal in North Bengal following reports of suspicious movements of some people in these areas in the wake of the conflict in Afghanistan;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government has agreed to provide all help and assistance to the State Government of West Bengal in unearthing subversive activities on Bengal border;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) to what extent these activities have been checked on Bengal border?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Union Government provides help and assistance to all the State Governments, including the Government of West Bengal, for checking illegal cross-border activities taking place along our borders with Bangladesh and Nepal. Such assistance includes strengthening the Border Management by deployment of border guarding forces, gearing up of intelligence machinery, improved coordination between the different intelligence agencies, modernisation and upgration of State Police Forces with advanced and sophisticated weapons, strengthening of State's Administrative infrastructure along border areas etc. These measures have helped in containing illegal cross-border activities. However, there is always scope for further strengthening of border monitoring and surveillance systems.

Counter-insurgency operations by CRPF

4424. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Reserve Police Force have taken over counter-insurgency operations in the country alongwith Rastriya Rifles of the Army and the Border Security Forces;